

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06137 192140Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 /053 W

-----107850 192206Z /72

P 191930Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1840
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6137

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER SEES JACOBO TIMERMAN;
CONGRESSMAN GILMAN ALSO TO BE
PERMITTED INTERVIEW WITH TIMERMAN

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM HECTOR TIMERMAN THAT LESS THAN
TWO HOURS AFTER US HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR PATRICIA
DERIAN DISCUSSED ON AUGUST 10 THE MISTREATMENT
OF ARGENTINE EDITOR JACOBO TIMERMAN WITH
MINISTER OF INTERIOR GENERAL ALBANO EDUARDO
HARGUINDEGUY, HARGUINDEGUY ACCORDING TO HECTOR ORDERED THAT
TIMERMAN BE CLEANED UP, SHAVED AND DRESSED
AND BROUGHT TO HIS OFFICE FREE OF HANDCUFFS.
TIMERMAN WAS BROUGHT TO THE MINISTRY IN AN
OFFICIAL CAR.

2. THE MEETING LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR.
HARGUINDEGUY FIRST ASKED TIMERMAN IF HE WAS
RELATED TO PATRICIA DERIAN, TO WHICH TIMERMAN
ANSWERED THAT THEY WERE FRIENDS. THE MINISTER THEN
ASKED TIMERMAN HOW HE HAD BEEN TREATED DURING HIS
IMPRISONMENT, CREATING THE IMPRESSION HE HAD BEEN
UNAWARE TIMERMAN HAD BEEN TORTURED UNTIL DERIAN TOLD
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HIM.

3. TIMERMAN AT FIRST REFUSED TO ANSWER, CITING HIS
FEAR OF "REPRISALS," BUT WHEN HARGUINDEGUY ASSURED HIM
THERE WOULD BE NONE TIMERMAN SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL THE
MISTREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED IN PRISON AFTER HIS ARREST.
HE ADDED THAT HIS JAILERS CONSTANTLY TAUNTED HIM

BECAUSE HE IS A JEW.

4. ACCORDING TO TIMERMAN'S SON, WHO SAW HIS FATHER THE FOLLOWING DAY, HARGUINDEGUY GAVE HIS FATHER THE IMPRESSION--WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING THIS--THAT HE WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT BEFORE A MILITARY TRIBUNAL AND MIGHT SOON BE FREED. HE SAID "WE WILL RESOLVE THIS SITUATION." THIS THICKENS THE TIMERMAN PLOT CONSIDERABLY, SINCE AN EMBASSY OFFICER HAD BEEN TOLD ON THE SAME DAY "ON GOOD AUTHORITY, FROM NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" THAT TIMERMAN HAD "CONFESSED TO BEING A COMMUNIST AND A SOVIET SPY, AND THAT HE WOULD BE TRIED ON THESE CHARGES BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL." WHEN, HOWEVER, AUGUST 18 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GILMAN AND LAGOMARSINO REQUESTED TO KNOW WHAT CHARGES HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST TIMERMAN A REPLY WAS RECEIVED LATE IN THE EVENING FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT HE IS BEING HELD FOR "CRIMES OF ECONOMIC SUBVERSION." (COMMENT: ALL THIS PROBABLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE FORCES HOLDING TIMERMAN HAVE NOT IN FACT DECIDED JUST WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEIR INCREASINGLY WELL KNOWN PRISONER.)

5. CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN GILMAN PRIVATELY ASKED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH TIMERMAN, WHICH HAS TENTATIVELY BEEN SET FOR EARLY EVENING AUGUST 19. AFTER INTERVIEW WE MAY HAVE A BETTER IDEA
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OF STATE OF PLAY AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT.

6. AS FOR TIMERMAN'S FAMILY, MEMBERS WERE TAKEN ABACK AT MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY'S NEW STANCE. WHAT THEY FEAR IS THAT HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT REPRISALS AGAINST JACOBO. THEY HAVE STRONGLY ENDORSED GILMAN'S VISIT WITH HIM.
CHAPLIN

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W

-----129262 071501Z /43

O 221541Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1860

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER SEES JACOBO TIMERMAN;

CONGRESSMAN GILMAN ALSO TO BE PERMITTED

INTERVIEW WITH TIMERMAN

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6137

CHANGE CLASSIFICATION CONTROL ON
BUENOS AIRES 6137 TO XGDS-4.

INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL MUST BE PROTECTED.
ITS DISCLOSURE WOULD PLACE SUBJECT INDIVIDUAL
IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY OF HIS LIFE AND COULD ALSO
HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON US-ARGENTINE
RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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